GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3125
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2002
LINKING OF RIVERS
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA;SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any plan to connect the rivers of North to South and East to West to fully harvest their potential; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component. It is programmed to complete feasibility reports of all the identified water transfer link schemes under the Peninsular Component by the year 2004 and those under the Himalayan Component by the year 2008. The implementation of the National Perspective Plan would only be possible if the concerned co-basin States agree to the water linkage proposal and provide other logistical support necessary for project implementation.